York Town Crier
POQUOSON
May 31 - June 6, 2000

Poquoson's birthday party has something for every partygoer

Picnic in the Park

"A true home-spun celebration, featuring primarily Poquoson, with that part of the celebration mainly local entertainment," said Marsh Jennings, describing the events that are going to take place at Municipal Park, on Saturday June 3rd, celebrating Poquoson's 25th Anniversary.

Several organizations, such as the Poquoson Parks and Recreation, have volunteered support in honor of the occasion.

The series of events, called "Picnic in the Park" is a result of "frantically working towards the dramatic conclusion of six-months of tireless effort." The theme is "A Day in the Life of Poquoson."

To start with, there will be car show, sponsored by Riggins Ford. Also, an art show is being held, accompanied by the presence of the Poquoson Art League. The Art League will be selling buttons, and donating all proceeds to a scholarship for a senior intent on an art career.

Also, visitors may purchase one of two license plates. One plate has the city seal, while the other is a new, special edition plate, honoring the 25th Anniversary.

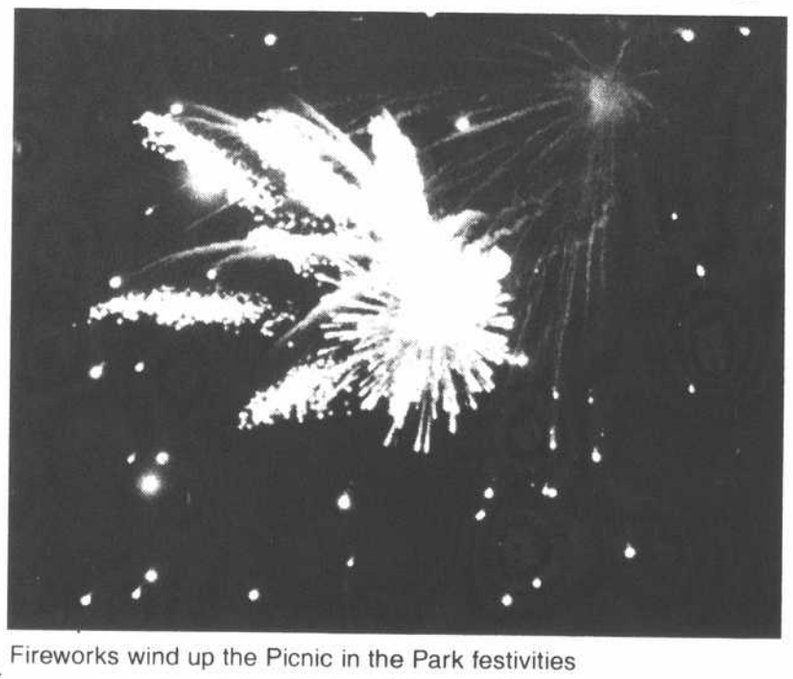
Another exhibit is the Heritage Display, which will feature several pieces of the city's memorabilia. Finally, visitors may take a nostalgic trolley ride to some of the city's historic buildings. There will be two routes through the city, each of which should not last longer than 45 minutes.

Throughout the day, bands such as the United States Air Force Jazz Band and the Salt Marsh Bluegrass Band, will hold several musical performances. The performances will begin with a "Battle of the Bands" Contest, sponsored by Pro- Music and Sound. Guests are welcome to bring blankets and chairs to watch the shows.

Also, Poquoson residents may participate in a "free swim day," and are encouraged to bring swimsuits and towels to take advantage of the park's pool. Other activities include volleyball, softball, and horseshoe games. Next, the Poquoson Soccer Club will hold a Speed Contest.

Then, Boy Scout Troop 51 will provide a rope bridge for entertainment. Finally, the Girls Scouts will be hosting face painting booth.

Food will be sold throughout the day by several vendors. These include Hick's Fries, and Poquoson Seafood. Also, organizations will be selling food, such as Domino's Pizza (Boy Scout Troop 51), hot dogs and hamburgers (American Legion), and lemonade (Poquoson Yacht Club). Finally, Nikki Massey will be selling ice cream.


Fireworks wind up the Picnic in the Park festivities

The day's activities will be brought to an explosive conclusion with a large fireworks display, beginning at 9:15 p.m. John Gill stated, "This is going to be one of the greatest celebrations ever seen in Poquoson, featuring the largest fireworks display in the city's history."

Right on the Button

On Saturday, June 3rd, the Poquoson Art League will be selling buttons at the "Picnic in the Park." The buttons will feature a Poquoson student's artwork.

A panel from the Art League selected the winning design on May 22. The award for the winning design was given at the school. The proceeds from the button sales will be put towards a $1,000 scholarship for a Poquoson senior intending to pursue an art career.

A Designing Woman

Poquoson's city seal is a ubiquitous work of art. The familiar symbol of the city may be easily found throughout the area. However, the artist responsible for the seal does not demand recognition.

Peggy Moore is a local artisan and also a member of the Poquoson Art League and local Historic Society. She designed and donated the seal to the city 25 years ago. She used the image of an American Indian and picturesque marshlands to be "hopefully, a representation of Poquoson's past and present."

She also incorporated the dates Poquoson became a town (1952) and when it became a city (1975).

Creative License

In honor of Poquoson's 25th Anniversary, two new license plates have been issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles. On June 3rd, the city will have a booth, which will have information on the plates and a sign-up sheet.

One design has the city seal to the left of the license plate numbers. The second plate, which is limited edition, has been the cause of many debates. The plate features several items from the city seal, including the American Indian and the marshlands. The scene is a background for the numbers.

Debate sparked over the number of objects and colors for the panoramic scene. The original colors "simply weren't Poquoson colors," said Tommie Turner, a member of the Poquoson Art League.

The City Council having decided the matter, the Parks and Recreations Department mailed a brochure on the plates to Poquoson residents. On June 3rd at "Picnic in the Park" the city will set up an information and sign-up booth. People will be able to order either of the plates to celebrate the 25th Anniversary.

A Palatable Contest

Although the trolleys will be touring historical buildings of Poquoson, structures of a very different sort will also be attracting attention on Saturday, June 3rd. Alongside several other events celebrating the 25th anniversary of Poquoson's establishment as a city, a non-perishable food sculpture contest is being held.

The event will take place at Poquoson Primary School from 12 noon to 4 p.m. All organizations such as churches, schools, even families were allowed to register for participation.

The majority of the sculptures must be built from food products, yet some props or "enhancements" are permitted. Participants may decide to build the structure either vertically or horizontally. Also, there will be a four hour set-up limit, as the judging will commence at 4 p.m.

Prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third place. First place will win a $100. Also, all participants will receive a burgundy ribbon with the city seal on it. Finally, all of the food products used will be donated to the Poquoson Food Bank. The event is sponsored by Dominion Village and Poquoson Pharmacy.

Child ID

Poquoson Masonic Lodge #49, with the assistance of the Poquoson Police will host a child I.D. program June 3rd at Poquoson Municpal Park, during the city's 25th Anniversary Celebration.

The child's fingerprints and palm prints will be taken and recorded in a child I.D. record book, which will be given to the parents. Any questions? Contact Lt. Percy Ward at Poquoson Police Department, 868-3366.

(Events compiled and written by Megan Mize)

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